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may be questioned, though we believe that their fairness and accuracy could be amply and easily vindicated. Let any unbiased reader, even if he should think that these charges of inaccuracy were substantiated, peruse the last eight pages of our article, and say if they are animated by a carping and censorious spirit towards the institution. It is very possible that the vivacity of some expressions in the former part of the article may have led some persons to misjudge our intentions; when pleading the cause of a friend, we do not hesitate and weigh our language very cautiously; but we certainly do not expect that this friend himself will misinterpret it, and then turn and rend us. Let the article be viewed as a whole, before the purpose with which it is written is declared to be manifest; when this is done, we will gladly abandon single sentences and rhetorical exaggerations in it to the severest criticism of "a member of the Corporation." We are sure that all the friends of Harvard will agree, that the institution ought to court discussion and criticism, for it is able to bear them. The more light and air, the greater the health. We believe that the time has come, when the establishment of a considerable number of scholarships in it is essential to the continuance of its prosperity, its usefulness, and its good name. What it now most needs is *more students*, — not so much new museums, new observatories, new laboratories, or even new professors of distinguished reputation, with but few pupils to profit by their instructions. It was founded as a place of *education*, not as an institute for the advancement of physical science. Young scholars, well trained for all the offices both of public and private life, are its appropriate products, its brightest ornaments, and its surest defence.

2. *The Life of Major-General Peter Muhlenberg, of the Revolutionary Army.* By HENRY A. MUHLENBERG. Philadelphia: Carey & Hart. 1849. 12mo. pp. 456.

"It is a pious duty," says the writer of this book, in his opening sentence, "to rescue the memory of the great and good men who achieved our independence from that oblivion into which it is fast falling." This duty ere long will be pretty fully executed. Almost every year we have a new biography of some Revolutionary worthy, in which his brave deeds are chronicled, the battles of Brandywine and Germantown are fought over again, and

the good old story of the surrender of Burgoyne and of Cornwallis is repeated with fresh spirit, one or two new facts being usually elicited, which tell much to the advantage of the hero of the volume. It is certainly a patriotic and pious act to write such books, and we hope persons will be found patriotic and enterprising enough to buy and read them. But the whole of this latter duty ought not to be thrown upon the shoulders of us pains-taking and much vilipended reviewers. Too much reading of this sort, we sometimes find, is a weariness to the eyes, if not to the spirit; yet we would not murmur, if the compilers of them would always write as modestly and sensibly as the author of this volume. His hero was a deserving, and somewhat remarkable character. He belonged to the church militant; he preached his last sermon just after he had received his commission as colonel of one of the Virginia regiments, and closed by telling his congregation, "that, in the language of Holy Writ, there was a time for all things, a time to preach and a time to pray; but those times had passed away." And he added, in a stentorian voice that rang through the church like a trumpet, "there is also a time to fight, and this time had now come." Suiting the action to the word, he immediately pulled off his minister's gown, showing himself in a full suit of regimentals, and descending from the pulpit, ordered the drums at the church door to beat up for recruits. The preacher was beloved, and the colonel was honored; and before the close of that day, three hundred men had enlisted under his banner. This event took place about the middle of January, 1776, in a little town, inhabited by German emigrants, in the valley of the Blue Ridge, in Virginia. The men of those days had never heard of the principles of non-resistance and universal [political] philanthropy. They did not scold, but struck bravely for freedom and for right.

To say the truth, General Muhlenberg, even in his boyish days, had shown a stronger inclination for a rifle than a book, and for dashing regimentals than for bands and cassock. The wishes of his excellent parent, the venerated "Father Muhlenberg," as he was termed, the founder of the German Lutheran Church in America, induced him to go to Halle, in Germany, to study for the ministry. "He has had," wrote the good old man to his German correspondent, Dr. Ziegenhagen, "no evil example from his parents, but many reproofs and counsels. His chief fault and bad inclination has been his fondness for hunting and fishing. But if our most reverend fathers at Halle observe any tendency to vice, I would humbly beg them to send him to a well disciplined garrison town, under the name of Peter Weiser, before he causes much trouble or complaint. There he may obey the

drum, if he will not follow the spirit of God." Young Peter justified his father's forebodings. Before he had been a year in the university at Halle, he avenged some fancied indignity by knocking down his tutor, and then ran away and enlisted in a regiment of dragoons. After serving for some time in this humble capacity, he was recognized by an acquaintance of his father's, who obtained his discharge, and sent him home to America. Not to grieve the old gentleman's spirit any further, he consented to pursue his clerical studies under the paternal roof, and in due course of time he received ordination, and was established as assistant rector over two churches in New Jersey. He subsequently removed to Virginia, and while there, the contest with the mother country arose, and he quitted the pulpit in the manner that we have related.

He was a good officer, and being soon promoted to the rank of brigadier-general, he served with distinction throughout the war. At the battle of Brandywine, particularly, his brigade fought more stoutly than any of the American troops on the field. Among the Hessians, who were opposed to them, happened to be the very regiment of dragoons in which he had served as a private while in Germany. The story goes, that some of the men who had long been in its ranks, as German soldiers then enlisted for life, recognized the tall figure of General Muhlenberg, as he led on his brigade, and the cry ran among them, *Hier kommt Teufel Piet!* (Here comes devil Peter!)

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3. *History of England, from the Accession of James II.* By THOMAS BABINGTON MACAULAY. Boston: Phillips & Sampson. 1849. 2 vols. 12mo.

OF course, we have no idea of despatching so large a subject as Macaulay's History within the brief limits of a Critical Notice; in our next number, we hope to give a full estimate of its character and value. We allude to the work now only to commend the taste and enterprise of the Boston publishers, who have put forth, at a moderate price, a very neat library edition of it, printed with great correctness, and not deformed by those shameless misspellings, which have so long disgraced the publications of the Harpers, and for which no excuse can be offered, except that they are owners of an edition of Webster's Dictionary, and they wish to extend and perpetuate its use. We have alluded before